



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Former Minnesota cop charged in shooting of Black motorist

Associated Press

BROOKLYN CENTER, Minn. (AP) — A prosecutor said Wednesday that he charged a white former suburban Minneapolis police officer with second-degree manslaughter for killing 20-year-old Black motorist Daunte Wright in a shooting that ignited days of unrest and clashes between protesters and police.

The charge against former Brooklyn Center police Officer Kim Potter was filed Wednesday, three days after Wright was killed during a traffic stop and as the nearby murder trial progresses for the ex-officer charged with killing George Floyd last May, Washington County Attorney Pete Orput said. The former Brooklyn Center police chief has said that Potter, a 26-year veteran and training officer, intended to use her Taser on Wright but fired her handgun instead. However, protesters and Wright's family members say there's no excuse for the shooting and that it shows how the justice system is tilted against Blacks, noting Wright was stopped for expired car registration and ended up dead. "Certain occupations carry an immense responsibility and none more so than a sworn police officer," Imran Ali, Washington County assistant criminal division chief, said in a statement announcing the charge. "(Potter's) action caused the unlawful killing of Mr. Wright and she must be held accountable."

Continued on Page 2



Flowers are placed on a banner as demonstrators gather outside the Brooklyn Center Police Department on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, to protest the shooting death of Daunte Wright on Sunday during a traffic stop in Brooklyn Center, Minn.

Associated Press

***French-Caribbean cuisine**
***Outdoor seating**
***Live music**
Mon - Fri by MARISELA
Thur - Sat by Jairo Saxophone

***Early bird special from 5 till 7**
3 course menu including a glass of wine \$32

Papillon
RESTAURANT

FIT-TO-FLY CERTIFICATE

PCR & ANTIGEN TEST

ON-SITE HOTEL AVAILABILITY **AIRBNB / OTHER LOCATIONS**

WWW.COVIDARUBA.COM
WALK-IN & BY APPOINTMENT

NOORD MEDICAL CENTER LOCATION, NOORD 63 **+297 5975548**

Ikes bistro
MEDITERRANEAN & CARIBBEAN

ROMANTIC DINNER UNDER THE STARS
SURPRISE YOUR LOVED ONE

\$160 per couple
Including a bottle of sparkling wine

Reservations required | +297 522 3444 or ikesbistromanchebo.com
Located at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa | excl. 15% service charge

NOW OPEN Fit2fly
COVID-19 Testing Center
BY WALK-IN & APPOINTMENT

Antigen Test: \$50
PCR Test also available



MedCare Clinic
URGENT CARE

Tel: (+297) 280-0630

info@medcare.aw / www.medcare.aw

Locations: The Cove Mall (8AM-10PM) and Medcare at the Mill Resort (8:30AM-12:30PM).

Former Minnesota cop charged in shooting of Black motorist



Authorities advance on demonstrators gathered outside the Brooklyn Center Police Department to protest the shooting death of Daunte Wright, late Tuesday, April 13, 2021, in Brooklyn Center, Minn.

Associated Press

Continued from Front

Ali said he and Orput met with Wright's family and assured them that no resources would be spared in prosecuting the case.

Intent isn't a necessary component of second-degree manslaughter in Minnesota. The charge — which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison — can be applied in circumstances where a person is suspected of causing a death by "culpable negligence" that creates an unreasonable risk and consciously takes chances to cause the death of a person.

Potter, 48, was arrested Wednesday morning at the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension in St. Paul. Her attorney did not immediately respond to messages from The Associated Press.

Potter and Police Chief

Tim Gannon both resigned Tuesday.

Concrete barricades and tall metal fencing had been set up around Potter's home in Champlin, north of Brooklyn Center, with police cars guarding the driveway. After Floyd's death last year, protesters demonstrated several times at the home of Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis officer now on trial in Floyd's death.

Police say Wright was pulled over for expired tags on Sunday, but they sought to arrest him after discovering he had an outstanding warrant. The warrant was for his failure to appear in court on charges that he fled from officers and possessed a gun without a permit during an encounter with Minneapolis police in June.

Body camera video that Gannon released Monday

shows Potter approaching Wright as he stands outside of his car as another officer is arresting him.

As Wright struggles with police, Potter shouts, "I'll Tase you! I'll Tase you! Taser! Taser! Taser!" before firing a single shot from a handgun in her right hand.

The news release announcing the charge noted that Potter holstered her handgun on the right side and her Taser on the left. The handles of each weapon faced to Potter's rear. The Taser is yellow with a black grip and would require Potter to remove it from her holster with her left hand, the county attorney's statement said.

Wright family attorney Ben Crump said the family appreciates the criminal case, but he again disputed that the shooting was accidental, arguing that an experienced officer knows the

difference between a Taser and a handgun.

"Kim Potter executed Daunte for what amounts to no more than a minor traffic infraction and a misdemeanor warrant," he said.

Experts say cases of officers mistakenly firing their gun instead of a Taser are rare, usually less than once a year nationwide.

Transit officer Johannes Mehserle was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to two years in prison after responding to a fight at a train station in Oakland, California, killing 22-year-old Oscar Grant in 2009. Mehserle testified at trial that he mistakenly pulled his .40-caliber handgun instead of his stun gun.

In Oklahoma, a white volunteer sheriff's deputy for Tulsa County, Robert Bates, was convicted of second-

degree manslaughter after accidentally firing his handgun when he meant to deploy his stun gun on Eric Harris, a Black man who was being held down by other officers in 2015.

Potter was an instructor with Brooklyn Center police, according to the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association. She was training two other officers when they stopped Wright, the association's leader, Brian Peters, told the Star Tribune. On Tuesday night, hundreds of demonstrators again gathered at Brooklyn Center's heavily guarded police headquarters, now ringed by concrete barriers and a tall metal fence, and where police in riot gear and National Guard soldiers stood watch.

About 90 minutes before a 10 p.m. curfew, state police announced over a loudspeaker that the gathering had been declared unlawful and ordered the crowds to disperse. Protesters launched fireworks toward the station and threw objects at officers, who launched flashbangs and gas grenades, then marched in a line to force back the crowd. The number of protesters plummeted over the next hour, until only a few remained. Police also ordered all media to leave.

Brooklyn Center, a suburb just north of Minneapolis, has seen its racial demographics shift dramatically in recent years. In 2000, more than 70% of the city was white. Today, a majority of residents are Black, Asian or Hispanic.

Mayor Mike Elliott said Tuesday that he didn't have at hand information on the police force's racial diversity but that "we have very few people of color in our department." □

Senate filibuster test over Asian-American hate crime bill

By LISA MASCARO and
MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is poised to start debate on legislation confronting the rise of potential hate crimes against Asian Americans, a growing problem during the coronavirus crisis that will also test whether the chamber can push past partisanship on an issue important to many constituents.

Typically, the Democratic-sponsored COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act might quickly face a filibuster, opposed by Republicans who prefer a different approach. But under the Senate leaders' agreement struck at the start of the year, Republicans and Democrats pledged to try to at least try to debate bills to see if they could reach agreement through the legislative process.

Ahead of Wednesday's initial votes, several leaders of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in Congress gave personal and heart-wrenching stories of the racism they and their constituents have faced, incidents on the rise during the virus outbreak. "For more than a year, the Asian American community has been fighting two crises — the COVID-19 pandemic and the anti-Asian hate," Rep. Grace Meng, D-N.Y., a co-author of the bill, said Tuesday at the Capitol.



Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill, in Washington, Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

Meng described well-documented but "horrifying" images of people being shoved and beaten in public attacks, and of her own conversations with survivors, including the families of the victims of deadly shootings last month in Atlanta. Six of those killed were women of Asian descent.

"Combating hate should not be a partisan issue. It's about the safety of all Americans," Meng said. The bill is the most substantive congressional response to what has been an alarming rise in racist sentiment against Asian Americans, fueled in part by derogatory language about the

virus' origins in China. Donald Trump, while president, played into that narrative with derisive nicknames for the virus. The moment harks back to earlier eras of racism against Chinese Americans, Japanese Americans and others of Asian heritage in this country.

Senate Republicans have panned the legislation for various shortcomings but have signaled they will not block it with a filibuster. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said as the "proud husband of an Asian American woman, I think this discrimination against Asian Americans is a real problem."

McConnell is married to Elaine Chao, the former transportation secretary, and he said Tuesday he was hoping to work out an agreement with Democrats to at least debate the bill and consider potential amendments.

Final passage, however, remains uncertain. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer launched the process to consider the bill this week, testing whether enough Republican senators will vote to proceed. Any one senator can halt the process, and it takes 60 votes in the Senate, which is evenly split 50-50 between Democrats and

Republicans, to overcome a filibuster.

Schumer said he was open to considering changes to the bill. He is in conversations with McConnell on a package of amendments that could be considered, according to aides.

"We cannot and must not remain silent," Schumer said Tuesday.

"There is no reason, no reason, this shouldn't be a bipartisan bill that passes the Senate."

A robust floor debate is rare for the Senate, which has ground to a halt due to pervasive partisanship. The gridlock has intensified calls from Democrats to change the filibuster rules to push past the opposition. Shy of taking that step, Schumer and McConnell had reached a tentative accord earlier this year to try to push past stalemates and allow senators to discuss and amend bills.

Several Republican senators indicated they would prefer to adjust the hate crimes legislation, but they are reluctant to exercise the filibuster on this bill. Opposing it could expose senators to claims they are being racially insensitive.

Leaving a caucus luncheon Tuesday, several GOP senators said they would not block the bill, but they were still looking at the legislation and proposed amendments to figure out what they would support. □

Associated Press

New Treasury office to oversee billions in virus relief help

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Treasury Department has created a new office to supervise the disbursement of the billions of dollars in relief money authorized by Congress to combat the coronavirus-related recession.

Officials said Wednesday that the goal is to streamline the process and ensure all eligible groups have access to the aid. The Office of Recovery Programs will oversee the release of \$420 billion in

support from the \$1.9 trillion package that President Joe Biden pushed through Congress last month, the Treasury said. That package included payments of up to \$1,400 for individuals, extended emergency unemployment benefits, rental assistance, support for small businesses and state and local governments.

The new office will also be responsible for supervising programs under the control of Treasury that were approved by Congress last year. In all, Congress

has approved around \$5 trillion in assistance to help millions of people who lost their jobs, and also businesses that were forced to close due to the pandemic.

Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo said the goal of the new office was to "get relief distributed quickly and into the hands of those who need it most."

In a separate report Wednesday, Treasury said that another 2 million relief payments with a value of more than \$3.4 billion



In this Feb. 5, 2021, file photo, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen speaks during a virtual roundtable with participants from Black Chambers of Commerce across the country to discuss the American Rescue Plan in Washington.

Associated Press

have been disbursed over the past week. □

Ponzi schemer Bernie Madoff dies in prison at 82

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO and TOM HAYS**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Bernard Madoff, the infamous architect of an epic securities swindle that burned thousands of investors, outfoxed regulators and earned him a 150-year prison term, died behind bars early Wednesday. He was 82.

Madoff's death at the Federal Medical Center in Butner, North Carolina, was confirmed by his lawyer and the Bureau of Prisons. Last year, Madoff's lawyers unsuccessfully asked a court to release him from prison during the coronavirus pandemic, saying he suffered from end-stage renal disease and other chronic medical conditions. His death was due to natural causes, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press. The person was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity.

For decades, Madoff enjoyed an image as a self-made financial guru whose Midas touch defied market fluctuations. A former chairman of the Nasdaq stock market, he attracted a devoted legion of investment clients — from Florida retirees to celebrities such as film director Steven Spielberg, actor Kevin Bacon and Hall of Fame pitcher Sandy Koufax.

But his investment advisory business was exposed in 2008 as a Ponzi scheme that wiped out people's fortunes and ruined charities. He became so hated he wore a bulletproof vest to court.

The fraud was believed to be the largest in Wall Street's history.

Over the years, court-appointed trustees laboring to unwind the scheme have recovered more than \$14 billion of an estimated \$17.5 billion investors put into Madoff's business. At the time of Madoff's arrest, fake account statements were telling clients they had holdings worth \$60 billion.

Madoff pleaded guilty in March 2009 to securities



Disgraced financier Bernard Madoff leaves U.S. District Court in Manhattan after a bail hearing in New York, Monday, Jan. 5, 2009.

fraud and other charges, saying he was "deeply sorry and ashamed."

After several months living under house arrest at his \$7 million Manhattan penthouse apartment, he was led off to jail in handcuffs to scattered applause from angry investors in the courtroom.

"He stole from the rich. He stole from the poor. He stole from the in between. He had no values," former investor Tom Fitzmaurice told the judge at the sentencing. "He cheated his victims out of their money so he and his wife ... could live a life of luxury beyond belief."

Madoff's attorney in recent years, Brandon Sample, said in a statement that the financier had "lived with guilt and remorse for his crimes" up until his death.

"Although the crimes Bernie was convicted of have come to define who he was — he was also a father and a husband. He was soft spoken and an intellectual. Bernie was by no means perfect. But no man is," Sample said.

U.S. District Judge Denny Chin sentenced Madoff to the maximum possible term.

"Here, the message must be sent that Mr. Madoff's crimes were extraordinarily evil and that this kind of irresponsible manipulation

of the system is not merely a bloodless financial crime that takes place just on paper, but it is instead ... one that takes a staggering human toll," Chin said.

A judge issued a forfeiture order stripping Madoff of all his personal property, including real estate, investments, and \$80 million in assets his wife, Ruth, had claimed were hers. The order left her with \$2.5 million. The scandal also exacted a personal toll on the family: One of his sons, Mark, killed himself on the second anniversary of his father's arrest in 2010. Madoff's brother, Peter, who helped run the business, was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 2012, despite claims he was in the dark about his brother's misdeeds.

Madoff's other son, Andrew, died from cancer at age 48. Ruth is still living.

Jerry Reisman, an attorney for about three dozen Madoff victims, said he'd spoken to several after Madoff's death.

"Some of them are saying they're enjoying this day," he said. "No one sees this as a great loss. No one is going to mourn Bernie Madoff. They are happy they have survived him."

Madoff was born in 1938 in a lower-middle-class Jewish neighborhood in Queens. In the financial world, the story of his rise to

prominence — how he left for Wall Street with Peter in 1960 with a few thousand dollars saved from working as a lifeguard and installing sprinklers — became legend. "They were two struggling kids from Queens. They worked hard," said Thomas Morling, who worked closely with the Madoff brothers in the mid-1980s setting up and running computers that made their firm a trusted leader in off-floor trading.

"When Peter or Bernie said something that they were going to do, their word was their bond," Morling said in a 2008 interview.

In the 1980s, Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities occupied three floors of a midtown Manhattan high-rise. There, with his brother and later two sons, he ran a legitimate business as middlemen between the buyers and sellers of stock. Madoff raised his profile by using the expertise to help launch Nasdaq, the first electronic stock exchange, and became so respected that he advised the Securities and Exchange Commission on the system. But what the SEC never found out was that, behind the scenes, in a separate office kept under lock and key, Madoff was secretly spinning a web of phantom wealth by using cash from new investors to pay

returns to old ones. An old IBM computer cranked out monthly statements showing steady double-digit returns, even during market downturns. As of late 2008, the statements claimed investor accounts totaled \$65 billion.

The ugly truth: No securities were ever bought or sold. Madoff's chief financial officer, Frank DiPascali, said in a guilty plea in 2009 that the statements detailing trades were "all fake."

His clients, many Jews like Madoff and Jewish charities, said they didn't know. Among them was Nobel Peace Prize winner and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, who recalled meeting Madoff years earlier at a dinner where they talked about history, education and Jewish philosophy — not money.

Madoff "made a very good impression," Wiesel said during a 2009 panel discussion on the scandal. Wiesel admitted that he bought into "a myth that he created around him that everything was so special, so unique, that it had to be secret."

Like many of his clients, Madoff and his wife enjoyed a lavish lifestyle. They had the Manhattan apartment, an \$11 million estate in Palm Beach, Florida and a \$4 million home on the tip of Long Island. There was yet another home in the south of France, private jets and a yacht.

It all came crashing down in the winter of 2008 with a dramatic confession. In a meeting with his sons, he confided his business was "all just one big lie."

After the meeting, a lawyer for the family contacted regulators, who alerted the federal prosecutors and the FBI. Madoff was in a bathrobe when two FBI agents arrived at his door unannounced on a December morning. He invited them in, then confessed after being asked "if there's an innocent explanation," a criminal complaint said.

Madoff responded: "There is no innocent explanation." Madoff insisted he acted alone — something the FBI never believed. □

Russia targets student magazine with raids, criminal charges

By DARIA LITVINOVA

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian authorities levied criminal charges Wednesday against four young editors of an online student magazine that had coverage about the nationwide protests supporting jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny earlier this year.

Police raided the Moscow apartments of the four DOXA magazine editors as well as the apartments of two of the editors' parents and the magazine's offices. The four were taken to Russia's Investigative Committee for questioning and charged with encouraging minors to take part in illegal activity, according to DOXA and a human rights group involved in their defense.

DOXA said the law enforcement actions were connected to a video the magazine ran about the January protests organized in support of Navalny. Mass protests engulfed cities across Russia's 11 time zones for two weekends in a row in January and were the biggest in recent years, posing a major challenge for the Kremlin.



DOXA magazine editors from left, Armen Aramyan, Natalya Tyshkevich and Alla Gutnikova wait for a court session as a police officer, left, stands next in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

The video talked about the pressure school and university students faced before the protests and described threats of expulsion for participating in the demonstrations unlawful. Russia's media and internet watchdog, Roskomnadzor, demanded DOXA delete the video several days after it ran in late January,

alleging that it contained information encouraging minors to take part in illegal activity.

The magazine complied, but filed a lawsuit to contest the order, with the four editors Armen Aramyan, Natalya Tyshkevich, Vladimir Metelkin and Alla Gutnikova among the plaintiffs.

DOXA said Wednesday that the video contained "no calls for unlawful actions we were saying that young people shouldn't be afraid to express their opinion."

"The pressure the journalist community has faced recently is unprecedented, but we won't stop our work. We will continue to cover

what's important for young people and will continue to stand up for their rights," the magazine's statement read. The charges against the four editors carry potential criminal penalties of up to three years in prison. They are part of the same criminal case Russian authorities opened against Navalny's chief strategist, Leonid Volkov, who was accused of encouraging minors to take part in unauthorized rallies, according to Damir Gainutdinov, head of the Net Freedoms Project of the Agora human rights organization. Volkov, who left Russia in 2019, has rejected the charges, and on Wednesday relayed "unconditional respect and support" to DOXA's team in a Facebook post.

Agora is providing legal representation for three of the four editors.

A court on Wednesday afternoon was set to decide on pre-trial restrictions for the DOXA editors. Dozens of supporters gathered in front of the courthouse in central Moscow; many carried banners saying "We are DOXA" and "Get your hands away from DOXA." □

Associated Press

China-drafted electoral reform bill introduced in Hong Kong

By ZEN SOO

Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's electoral reform bill was introduced in the city's legislature on Wednesday, setting in motion changes that will give Beijing great-

er control over the process while reducing the number of directly elected representatives.

The bill is part of efforts to rein in political protests and opposition in Hong Kong, which is part of China but

has had a more liberal political system since the 1997 handover from Britain.

Political freedoms have been under threat since China imposed a national security law on Hong Kong last year and is now revamping its electoral process as part of a crackdown after months of pro-democracy protests in 2019 that brought hundreds of thousands to the streets.

Hong Kong Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Erick Tsang said at a meeting at the legislature that the bill will bolster the national foundation and improve the governance of Hong Kong.

The bill was read for the first and second time on Wednesday.

It is expected to pass by

the end of May after the third reading with little opposition. All pro-democracy lawmakers resigned in November following the ousting of four of their colleagues who were deemed insufficiently loyal by Beijing.

"This provides a sound foundation to ensure Hong Kong's system for patriots administering Hong Kong, and will bring the implementation of 'one country, two systems' back on the right track," Tsang said, referring to the semi-autonomy that China promised Hong Kong for 50 years.

In the current 70-member legislature, voters elect half the members and the other half is chosen by constituencies representing various professions and interest groups. Many of

those constituencies are pro-Beijing.

The electoral reform bill envisages the legislature with only 20 elected members, 30 chosen by the constituencies and 40 by an Election Committee, which also appoints the city's leader.

The committee, which will be expanded from 1,200 to 1,500 members, is dominated by supporters of the central government in Beijing.

A new, separate body will also be set up to review the qualifications of candidates for office in Hong Kong to ensure that the city is governed by "patriots," in the language of the central government.

The legislative elections will take place in December. □



Pro-China lawmakers pose to reporters after attending the first and second reading of "Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Bill 2021" at the Legislative Council in Hong Kong, Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

Associated Press

On Memorial Day, Israel mourns, reflects on vets' trauma

By ILAN BEN ZION

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel marked its national Memorial Day for fallen soldiers on Wednesday, in a year when national attention has been focused on the plight of veterans suffering from psychological trauma. Memorial Day is the most solemn day on Israel's national calendar. Bereaved families visit cemeteries and attend memorial ceremonies, and television and radio shift programming to somber music, broadcasts of memorial services and documentaries about slain soldiers. This year also included a nationwide discussion about soldiers' mental health after a dependent young combat veteran set himself on fire outside a government office. The soldier, Itzik Saidian, was in critical condition.

In an annual ritual, the sounding of a two-minute siren around the country brought people to a momentary halt.

Pedestrians stood still in the street and motorists stopped on the highway and stood with heads bowed.

Israel has fought half a dozen wars with neighboring Arab countries, battled two



Israeli scouts light torches during a Memorial Day ceremony commemorating fallen soldiers, at the military cemetery at Mount Herzl in Jerusalem, Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

Associated Press

Palestinian uprisings and endured scores of deadly militant attacks since its establishment in 1948. On Memorial Day, Israel honors 23,928 fallen soldiers and over 3,100 people killed in militant attacks.

At sundown on Wednesday, the country will transition from remembrance to joyous celebration, kicking off its 73rd Independence Day.

Speaking at a memo-

rial service at Jerusalem's Mount Herzl military cemetery, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Israel "must never remain apathetic to the threats of war and extermination of those who seek to eliminate us." His remarks came in the midst of heightened tensions between Israel and regional arch-enemy Iran, following an explosion at an Iranian nuclear facility earlier this week. Iran has

blamed Israel for the incident.

"For the State of Israel not to be a passing episode in the history of our people, we must hold onto our land with all our might and determination," he said.

In a country where military service is mandatory for Jewish males, many leaders spoke about the need to take better care of military veterans after Saidian's self-immolation.

Saidian, 26, served in the Israeli military during the 2014 war against Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip, taking part in some of the fiercest fighting during the month-long conflict and watching several comrades die. His family said he suffered severe depression from the trauma of the war, but struggled to receive financial support from the Defense Ministry.

On Monday, Saidian set himself on fire at a veteran rehabilitation office in central Israel. The Sheba Medical Center said Tuesday that Saidian was in critical condition with burns all over his body.

Saidian's brother, Avi, told reporters that the authorities "neglected him. He saw terrible things and nobody cared."

Everyone thought he was just talking." His sister-in-law told Israeli news site Ynet that "the state forgot the soldiers that fought for it and has neglected them. When they need help, the door is slammed in their faces."

Israel's president, prime minister, and defense minister issued statements wishing Saidian a speedy recovery and expressing support for veterans suffering from trauma. □

U.S. urges Lebanese leaders to break political impasse

BEIRUT (AP) — A senior U.S. official on Wednesday berated Lebanese politicians for fighting over the formation of a new government for months while millions endure mounting economic hardship.

David Hale, U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs, said America and the international community are ready to help, "but we can do nothing meaningful without a Lebanese partner." Hale spoke on a two-day visit to Lebanon amid a monthslong political deadlock and dangerous rift between the president and prime minister-designate. The split has prevented the formation of a new Cabinet tasked

with halting the country's rapid economic collapse. The outgoing government resigned last August, following a massive explosion

at Beirut's port that killed 211 people, injured more than 6,000 and damaged entire neighborhoods in the capital.



U.S. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale, right, meets with the Lebanese Foreign Minister Charbel Wehbe, in Beirut, Lebanon, Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

Associated Press

The blast hastened the country's economic and financial decline, which began in late 2019 and has emerged as the gravest threat to Lebanon's stability since the 15-year civil war ended in 1990.

The local currency has been in free fall since late 2019, losing around 90 percent of its value. The government defaulted on its foreign debt last year and nearly half the population has been pushed into poverty and unemployment.

"America and its international partners are gravely concerned with the failure here to advance the critical reform agenda long demanded by the Lebanese people," Hale told

reporters Wednesday after meeting Lebanon's longtime Parliament Speaker, Nabih Berri. The current crisis, he said, was the culmination of decades of mismanagement, corruption and the failure of Lebanese leaders to put the interests of the country first. "It is time now to call on Lebanese leaders to show sufficient flexibility to form a government that is willing and capable of true and fundamental reform," Hale added, calling it the only path out of this crisis. "It's also only a first step. Sustained cooperation will be needed if we're going to see transparent reforms adopted and implemented." □

Mexico president focusing efforts to stop child migrants

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Wednesday he plans to visit his country's southern border to discuss with governors and mayors there how to stop the smuggling of child migrants — an issue of growing concern for the United States.

The United States government has asked Mexico and the countries of Central America's Northern Triangle — Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador — to help lower the number of child migrants arriving at its own border with Mexico.

The Biden administration said this week it had reached agreements with those countries to use troops to crack down on migrant smuggling. The move was criticized by human rights defenders and migrant advocates, who said it would make it more difficult for people seeking international protection. But López Obrador said at his daily news conference



In this March 30, 2021 file photo, a smuggler takes migrants, mostly from Central American countries, on a small inflatable raft towards U.S. soil, in Roma, Texas.

on Wednesday that the desire to protect those rights is motivating Mexico's efforts to stop child migrants.

"To protect children we are going to reinforce the surveillance, the protection, the care on our southern border because it's to defend human rights," he said.

He showed photographs of a tractor-trailer rig stopped in the southern city of Tuxtla Gutierrez on Tuesday that was carrying 149 migrants, including 28 minors, from Honduras and Guatemala. The president also said that the director of Mexico's child and families protection agency would move

from Mexico City to the southern city of Tapachula until the situation improves. The number of children arriving at the U.S. southern border has become a growing problem for the Biden administration. It continues quickly returning most migrants to Mexico, but has said it will not do

so with unaccompanied minors. Central American families, encouraged by smugglers, are increasingly bringing young children with them, hoping that it will improve their chances of being allowed to stay in the U.S. while their cases proceed. Some of the parents returned to Mexico have decided to send their children back across the border to the U.S. unaccompanied.

In late March, Biden said that Vice President Kamala Harris would take charge of U.S. efforts in Mexico and the Northern Triangle to address the root causes of migration. She said Wednesday she soon planned to visit Mexico and Guatemala. Harris said she is working from the position that most people don't want to leave their homes. Problems of economic resiliency, climate, water, food sustainability and corruption won't be fixed overnight, but the U.S. is studying what it can do about economic development in those countries, she said. □

Associated Press

Somalia's president OKs mandate extension, alarming U.S., E.U.

By HASSAN BARISE
Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Somalia's president has defiantly signed into law an extension of his mandate and that of his government as the United States and others threatened sanctions and warned of further instabil-

ity in one of the world's most fragile countries.

The standoff prolongs a months-long election crisis after the February national vote was delayed.

Critics say President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed's time in office is over. The international community had objected

to a mandate extension and warned that the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group could take advantage of the country's heated political divisions.

The president late Tuesday signed the controversial law after the lower house of parliament this week voted to effectively extend his mandate for two years while calling for direct elections during that time. Leaders of the Senate, however, called the vote illegal and Somalia's opposition protested.

The U.S. is "deeply disappointed," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement overnight that threatened the possibility of sanctions, visa restrictions and a reevaluation of "our bilateral relations." □

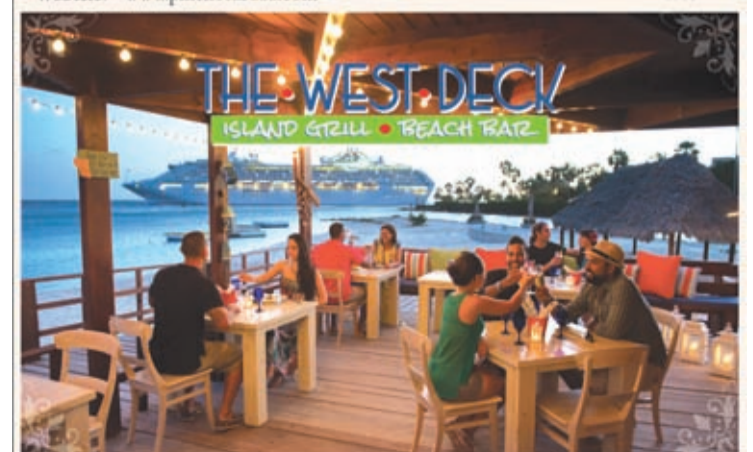


In this Saturday, May 25, 2019, file photo, Somalia's President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed arrives for the swearing-in ceremony of Cyril Ramaphosa at Loftus Versfeld stadium in Pretoria, South Africa.

Associated Press



Open: Daily
From: 5:00PM to 10:00PM
Tel: 583-2666
Website: www.pinchosaruba.com



Open: Daily for Lunch and Dinner
From: 11:00AM to 10:00PM
Tel: 587-2667
Website: www.thewestdeck.com



LOCAL



Aruba Tourism Authority: Aruba welcomed a total of 48.967 visitors in March 2021

ORANJESTAD – A.T.A. would like to inform our community of the current situation of our tourism industry according to information compiled at this moment from different sectors.



'STAY-OVER' Tourism

During the month of March 2021 our island welcomed a total of 48.967 'stay-over' visitors. Of this total, 43.464 were from North America, 2.538 from Europe, 1.895 visitors from Latin America and 1.070 from other countries in the region.

Hotels/ AHATA

According to Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, in March of 2021, the 'Average Daily Rate' (ADR) decreased with 15.5% compared to the same month of 2020. In numbers this is US\$ 239.32 in 2020 compared

to US\$ 278.23 for 2021. The RevPAR also decreased to 25.9% of US\$ 136.71 in 2020 to US\$ 101.35 in 2021. Hotel occupation decreased with 12.2% compared to March 2020 (period when the lockdown started due to the Covid pandemic) the occupancy for March 2021 was 36.4%. The numbers provided by AHATA are based to 19 properties, 6 timeshares and timeshare hotels, which are the majority of the hotels with the exception of Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino.

Cruise Tourism

The cruise industry has been paralyzed since the beginning of the pandemic. Recently, it was announced that Aruba is part of the itinerary of Celebrity Cruise lines which will re-initiate their services in June of 2021. However a definitive date has not been given yet for the start of this operation for the Caribbean. The cruise industry is pending for the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) to approve the recommendations and

protocols related to Covid-19 for cruise ships. There are currently cruise ships stationed at our harbor as 'warm lay-up', meaning they are on standby pending instructions upon startup of the operation. This activity produces an income for our economy. There are no tourists on the ships only crew members (skeleton crew) and they all have to comply to all rules and protocols locally and internationally.

What to expect for the remaining of 2021?

Based on different current developments and analysis a forecast is being observed for the 2nd quarter of 2021. Projections show an increase of 15% to 37% compared to the first quarter of 2021, in which A.T.A. received a total of 112,317 visitors. The revised projection indicates that Aruba will be closing 2021 with a "cautious optimistic" scenario (recovery vs. 2019: 55%) instead of a "conservative" scenario (recovery vs. 2019: 45%). When comparing the first quarter of 2021 to the first quarter of 2020, this shows a grade of

recovery 49%. And if compared to the same quarter of 2019 the grade of recovery is 38%.

Tourism Credits/Centrale Bank of Aruba

According to the Centrale Bank the so-called 'Tourism Credits' (previously known as 'Tourism Receipts') for the first 9 months of 2020 contributed with AWG 1431.1 million for our economy which is 48.5% less compared to the same period in 2019. This is due to the closing of the border due to the Covid-19 pandemic that started in March 2020 and lasted up till July 2020.

Just as any other destination our island is going through some challenges due to the global pandemic. To maintain our established protocols it is extremely important to reduce the amount of active cases in our community. The wellbeing of our residents and visitors are important and adhering to all protocols will contribute to the recovery of our economy. Together we shall overcome this and our tourism will flourish again. □

laguna

*Endless Breakfast
at Hilton
has moved back
to Laguna!*

Due to high demand, reservations are now required and can be made from 8am - 3pm by calling 526-6680.

Hilton
ARUBA CARIBBEAN RESORT & CASINO

HILTON ARUBA CARIBBEAN RESORT & CASINO
J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 81, Palm Beach, Aruba
hiltonaruba.com | @HiltonAruba

Aruba to me!

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. □

Meet One Happy Photographer

ORANJESTAD — The cover picture of the Aruba Today Facebook page shows a picture of a different local photographer every couple of months. We just love culture and would like to support our local talents, therefore Aruba Today chooses to be a platform for showcasing art.

The newest cover picture is the work of the talented Julien de Bats alias One Happy Photographer. Before him we had the honor to showcase the art of photographers Michael-Anthony, Anuar Habibe, Armando Goedgefrag, Jonathan Petit and Jeroen Lucas from Aruba Paradise Photos.

De Bats is a Dutch photographer



that now calls Aruba home. Having travelled and lived throughout Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean, De Bats discovered that he is passionate about capturing photos of the people around him. During his adventure, he realized that even the shyest camera-phobes felt comfortable revealing the nuances of their personality in front of his lens. Along with producing high quality images that look and feel like artwork, De Bats is a master of creating a collaborative, easy-going atmosphere for his clients. In the past, clients speak highly of the photographer for his ability to make everyone feel comfortable

during the photo shoot experience. His extreme attention to detail and talent for creating unique images is what sets him apart, allowing him to deliver exceptional photos. He provides a wide range of photography services in Aruba, including wedding and engagement photos, portraits, and event photos.

For more information: Call him at +297 594 1369 or email to hello@onehappyphotographer.com or check out his website www.onehappyphotographer.com. □

Origin of Papiamentu- Aruba's native language

ORANJESTAD — Papiamentu, Creole language of ABC (Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao) is from the Cape Verdean Creole family (Cape Verdean language) and was taken to the Caribbean in the 9th century by the Cape Verdeans of that time (linings and slaves), experts in cane culture and sugar production, and who were hired by Jewish entrepreneurs who went to invest in this business in the Caribbean. Cape Verdeans taught this pre-industrial revolution technology (planting cane and producing sugar, which they had learned from Madeirans) to slaves from other African regions, and did so in their language, Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language), hence the language implanted in Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao.

Unlike many interesting stories, wanting to link Pa-

piamentu directly to Portuguese, Galician or Castilian (see Papiamentu, on Wikipedia - Portuguese version and Spanish version, where the Portuguese and Spanish, each claim the direct origin of Papiamentu), in fact, this is not true. Papiamentu is not direct from Portuguese, Galician or Castilian, it is from the Cape Verde Creole family (Cape Verdean language). You can see this best when it's saying obscene words and offending someone, precisely as they say today in both ABC and Cape Verde islands. The obscene words kept the original, had no lexical influence either from Castilian or Dutch. Also the Papi Cristang of Malacca, the Patuá of Macau, and several creoles from the east (from Daman, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia) and Africa (Casamança, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, these last two releases

to the English), all originated in the Creole of Cabo Verde (Cape Verdean language), which was the French language spoken in Portuguese feitorias on the coast of Africa (from Senegal to Sierra Leone), and which was taken east by the thousands of cable-Verdeans (linings and slaves, already Christianized and speaking Creole) who served as sailors and "slaves of arms" in Portuguese caravels, demanding the east. I don't know why the official history of Portugal usually omits this fact, which is in the chronicles of the quinrentist chroniclers, but which we never saw in the history of Portugal that we study from primary education to higher education. However, it has always been tried to deceive us, in colonial time, that we were descendants of Viriato (Iberian hero in the fight against the Romans) and the pastors of



the Hermini Mountains, but not much speaking of our black-African ancestry. We Cape Verdeans understand each other very well with these Antillans and Easterns, whose language is from the same Creole family of Cape Verde (Cape Verdean language), speaking their Creole and we ours. Therefore, Papiamentu, Papi Cristang, Patuá Macaense and the creoles, said of

Portuguese origin, Daman, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, some locations in the Philippines and some places in Indonesia, are creoles of the language family Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language) and indirectly the Galaico-Duriense or Galaico-Portuguese, a language that the people spoke in Portugal in the 6th and 7th century.

Anonymous

Source: Dushi Aruba



Amazing Azure



Alberto Perret-Gentil, Vice-president of operations

EAGLE BEACH — Azure Beach Residences speaks for itself the moment you set foot on the place. The luxurious real estate has all ingredients to offer you a 5-star-de-luxe plate. Located right on the beach, offering a blend between your own condominium with advantages and experience of a hotel and all amenities that belong to a spot in heaven.



Aruba Today was delighted to talk to a wonderful couple from New York, Esteban Marquez and his wife who are proud owner of one of the condos. "We love the condo we have purchased at Azure. We are planning on retirement five years from now, we are from New York. This is excellent, we are very happy with our choice and we love the island." Happy owners on a happy island, it sounds like music to his ears says Alberto Per-

ret-Gentil, Executive Vice-president of Operations at Azure Beach Residences. "In August 2020 we had the grand opening of Tower II of Azure Beach Residences. We see that there is a new trend of people wanting to work from their second home, their vacation condo. Our island is blessed with the perfect beaches and climate, it is very safe and —many do not know this— it has the best internet in the Caribbean." During the COVID-19 crisis Pering Group, also the developer of Harbour House Aruba, stays connected to their market and is able to capture all those people staying home at this time. "We continuously show our new projects and new financial ideas. We are very optimistic. This is going to be the best time in sales in our 20 years on Aruba," Perret-Gentil states.

Tower 1 of Azure Beach Residences has 45 units on the northern and southern corner and is practically sold out.

The residence offers two units at the upper level of the Clubhouse which has on the ground level the restaurant and the lobby and on the upper level the gym, area for grill and a pool table.

Tower 2 offers 60 units with studios, 1-bedroom, 2-bedroom, 3-bedroom units and 3- bedroom penthouses at the 8th floor.

For more information you can visit the website www.azure-aruba.com. Harbour House Aruba is another project of this group offering 94 condominiums in Oranjestad, just in front of the Renaissance Mall. More information can be found at: www.harbourhousearuba.com. □

AZURE BEACH RESIDENCES ARUBA

Beachfront Condos
Move - In Ready

Visit our sales office at Azure Beach Residences.
Exclusive Oceanfront residences with 180° views of the Caribbean and just a few steps from Eagle Beach.

www.azure-aruba.com **+297-5946395**



Coinbase soars in market debut, valued near \$100 billion

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AND ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writers

Coinbase made a rousing debut on Wall Street Wednesday, with the digital currency exchange's rising as high as \$429, briefly giving it a market value over \$100 billion.

Coinbase Global Inc.'s initial public offering comes with cryptocurrency chatter seemingly everywhere, even at the U.S. Federal Reserve. Digital currencies are being incorporated into business plans and accepted by major corporations like Tesla, PayPal and Visa. The San Francisco-based company's listing on a public stock exchange is seen by some as an inflection point for digital currencies, as Coinbase's fortunes are closely tied to Bitcoin, the most popular cryptocurrency. Bitcoin's price has topped \$63,000, up from \$29,000 at the start of the year, and Coinbase said recently that first-quarter revenue should total around \$1.8 billion, exceeding its revenue for all of 2020.

Shares of Coinbase are listed on the Nasdaq under the ticker "COIN," and were trading around \$376 after about 40 minutes of trading, putting its market



Costumed characters pass the Nasdaq MarketSite during the Coinbase IPO, in New York's Times Square, Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

Associated Press

value around \$98.2 billion. That market value makes Coinbase one of the biggest publicly traded U.S. companies — just 83 companies in the S&P 500 index have market values above \$100 billion. Coinbase's value is greater than the combined market value of Nasdaq Inc., which runs the Nasdaq Stock Market, and Intercontinental Exchange, which owns the New York Stock Exchange.

Founded in 2012, Coinbase became popular among

cryptocurrency fans by providing them with an easier way to exchange shares of Bitcoin and other digital currencies.

Coinbase said it had 56 million verified users as of March 31, with 6.1 million making transactions monthly. Trading volume in the first quarter was \$335 million. Coinbase earns 0.5% of the value of every transaction that goes through its system. So if someone buys \$100 in Bitcoin, Coinbase earns 50 cents. If Bitcoin

or Ethereum prices drop, the commissions Coinbase earns drop as well, giving it some exposure to the digital currencies' rise and fall. Instead of using a traditional IPO, Coinbase went public through a public listing. That means it avoided the typical agreements with big banks that would buy thousands of shares and promote them. A direct listing allows insiders and early investors to convert their stakes in the company into publicly traded stock.

Other recent direct listings include the music streaming service Spotify in 2018, the messaging service Slack in 2019 and the data-mining company Palantir Technologies in 2020.

Shares of Coinbase should attract investors who want to get into the cryptocurrency space in addition to, or without buying any coins at all, said Lule Demmissie, president of Ally Invest.

"It could also be a less volatile security than the coins themselves," Demmissie says. Still, not everyone is buying into the Coinbase hype. David Trainer, CEO of investment research firm New Constructs, said Coinbase has "little-to-no chance of meeting the future profit expectations that are baked into its ridiculously high valuation."

Trainer last week put a valuation on Coinbase closer to \$18.9 billion, arguing it will face more competition as the cryptocurrency market matures. However Dan Ives, of Wedbush, sees Coinbase as a window into the future. "Coinbase is a foundational piece of the crypto ecosystem and is a barometer for the growing mainstream adoption of Bitcoin and crypto for the coming years," Ives said. □

Pushback against restrictive voting measures gains momentum

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AP Business Writer

The pushback against new voting bills and laws in numerous states is growing

with dozens of nation's largest corporations and business leaders signing a new statement objecting to "any discriminatory leg-

islation." Signatories to the letter, published Wednesday in The New York Times, include Amazon, American Airlines, Bank of America, Google and Best Buy, as well as hundreds of business and civic leaders such as Warren Buffett and Michael Bloomberg.

"We all should feel a responsibility to defend the right to vote and oppose any discriminatory legislation or measures that restrict or prevent any eligible voter from having an equal and fair opportunity to cast a ballot," the letter reads.

Opposition to the new legislation has been picking up momentum and it's coming from sources that historically have steered

clear of public statements related to politics.

Over the weekend more than a hundred top executives and corporate leaders gathered online to discuss their response to restrictive voting laws under consideration in several states and already enacted in Georgia. Media reports indicate the statement put out Wednesday was discussed during the weekend meeting. It comes after 72 Black executives signed a similar statement last month in the wake of changes to Georgia's voting laws.

This week, the leaders of three-dozen major Michigan companies, including General Motors and Ford, objected to Republican-

sponsored election bills that would make it harder to vote in Michigan and other states.

More than 350 different voting bills are under consideration in dozens of states, according to a tally from the Brennan Center for Justice, a public-policy think tank. On Tuesday Arkansas was among the latest to approve changes to its election laws, including restrictions on outside polling places and on absentee ballots.

The pushback against such laws elicited a warning from Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell this month, who said it's "quite stupid" for corporations to speak out against the Georgia voting law. □



In this May 5, 2019, file photo Warren Buffett, Chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, smiles as he plays bridge following the annual Berkshire Hathaway shareholders meeting in Omaha, Neb.

Associated Press

EXPLAINER: What's known about J&J's vaccine and rare clots

By **LAURAN NEERGAARD**
AP Medical Writer

A rare, rogue immune response is the main suspect as authorities investigate highly unusual blood clots following use of two similar COVID-19 vaccines from Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca.

The U.S. recommended that states pause giving the J&J vaccine on Tuesday while authorities examine six reports of the unusual clots, including a death, out of more than 6.8 million Americans given the one-dose vaccination so far.

But the small number of cases sparked concern because just last week, European authorities said similar clots were possibly linked to the AstraZeneca vaccine, which is not yet OK'd in the U.S. That led some countries to limit its use to certain age groups. Also Tuesday, J&J delayed its imminent European rollout.

WHAT MAKES THESE CLOTS DIFFERENT?

These are not typical blood clots. They're weird in two ways.

First, they're occurring in unusual parts of the body, such as veins that drain blood from the brain. Second, those patients also have abnormally low levels of platelets -- cells that help form clots -- a condition normally linked to bleeding, not clotting.

Scientists in Norway and Germany first raised the possibility that some people are experiencing an ab-



Sharis Carr, a nurse at the Aaron E. Henry Community Health Service Center in Clarksdale, Miss., holds a box containing doses of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine Wednesday, April 7, 2021.

normal immune system response to the AstraZeneca vaccine, forming antibodies that attack their own platelets. That's the theory as the U.S. now investigates clots in J&J vaccine recipients, Dr. Peter Marks, the Food and Drug Administration's vaccine chief, said Tuesday.

WHY SUSPECT IMMUNE RESPONSE?

The first clue: A widely used blood thinner named heparin sometimes causes a very similar side effect. Very rarely, heparin recipients form antibodies that both attack and overstimulate platelets, said Dr. Geoffrey Barnes, a clot expert at the University of Michigan.

"It kind of can cause both

sides of the bleeding-clotting spectrum," Barnes said. Because heparin is used so often in hospitals, that reaction is something "that every hospital in America knows how to diagnose and treat."

"There also are incredibly rare reports of this weird clot-low platelet combination in people who never took heparin, such as after an infection. Those unexplainable cases haven't gotten much attention, Barnes said, until the first clot reports popped up in some AstraZeneca vaccine recipients.

Health officials said one reason for the J&J pause was to make sure doctors know how to treat patients

suspected of having these clots, which includes avoiding giving heparin.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention later Tuesday provided advice on how to spot and treat the unusual clots.

WHAT DOES RESEARCH SHOW?

In two studies in the New England Journal of Medicine last week, research teams from Norway and Germany found platelet-attacking antibodies in the blood of some AstraZeneca vaccine recipients who had the strange clots. The antibodies were similar to those found with the heparin side effect even though the patients had never used that blood thinner.

It's not yet clear if there's a similar link to the J&J vaccine. But the J&J and AstraZeneca vaccines, as well as a Russian COVID-19 vaccine and one from China, are made with the same technology. They train the immune system to recognize the spike protein that coats the coronavirus. To do that, they use a cold virus, called an adenovirus, to carry the spike gene into the body.

FDA's Marks wouldn't say if the weird clots may be common to these so-called adenovirus-vector vaccines. In addition to the AstraZeneca data, J&J makes an Ebola vaccine the same way and he said authorities would examine "the totality of the evidence."

WHAT ABOUT OTHER VACCINES?

The most widely used COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S. from Pfizer and Moderna are made with a completely different technology, and the FDA said there is no sign of a similar clot concern with those vaccines.

What about people worried because they received the J&J vaccination? Marks said it's important not to confuse the rare clot risk with normal flu-like symptoms people often feel a day or two after a COVID-19 vaccination. He said concerning symptoms, such as severe headache or severe abdominal pain, would occur a week to three weeks after the J&J vaccine. □

Associated Press

I got the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. Now what?

By **The Associated Press**

I got the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. Now what?

Don't panic. U.S. health officials on Tuesday recommended pausing vaccinations with J&J's shot as they look into reports of six clots out of nearly 7 million doses given in the country. Health officials say to be vigilant, but to remember that reports of blood clots that may be associated with J&J's single-dose vaccine are exceedingly rare.



Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, speaks during a press briefing at the White House, Tuesday, April 13, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

"It's less than one in a million," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top U.S. infectious disease specialist.

Common side effects after getting a COVID-19 vaccine can include arm pain and normal flu-like symptoms for a couple days afterward. Those aren't pleasant, but they aren't what officials are concerned about.

Instead, be on the lookout for different, more severe symptoms associated with the clots, particularly

between one and three weeks after the shot.

Those include severe headache, backache, abdominal pain, shortness of breath, leg swelling, tiny red spots on the skin or bruising.

If those symptoms show up, seek medical treatment right away.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued advice to help doctors spot these rare clots and safely treat them. □

Classifieds

Divi Phoenix Villas
 Studio WK # 16 and 17
 Room # 102 right on beach
 32 weeks remain (DVC Points contract
 Price : \$9K Both weeks
 (115,000) Call :(630-1307)
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Resort
 Studio Week 13 room # 6206
 Studio Week 14 room # 6205
 Ocean view 21 weeks remain
 Price : \$ 8 K each.
 Call: 011-(297) 630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Costa Linda Beach Resort
 2 BR WK # 16 Room # 1010
 Ground floor Right on Eagle Beach
 Price : \$10 K
 Call: (297) 630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Costa Linda Beach Resort
 2 BR wk # 18 room # 3030
 Pool/ Ocean View \$8,5 K
 Rent date : 30 to 5 May 2021
 \$1300 Call :(297)630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott Ocean Club
 GOLD
 1 BR Ocean View \$ 5 K
 2 BR Ocean View \$ 7 K
 PLATINUM
 1 BR Ocean View \$10 K
 2 BR Ocean Front \$ 26 K
 Call :(297)630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott Surf Club
 GOLD
 2 BR Garden View \$ 6K
 2 BR Ocean View \$ 8 K
 Platinum
 2 BR Ocean View \$ 17 K
 2 BR Ocean Side \$ 18 K
 2 BR Garden View\$ 16 K
 Call :(297)630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Villa Las Palmas
 Tierra Del Sol Golf Course
 3 Bedroom , 2 1/2 Bath
 Full furnish view on the Golf / Ocean
 With Garge
 Price :\$450 K
 Call :(297) 630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Le Vent Condo
 3 Bedroom , 2 Bath, Full Furnish
 Across Eagle Beach, Ground floor
 Price : \$650 K
 Call:(297)630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Gold Coast Condo
 2 Bedroom , 2 Bath ,
 Full Furnish
 Price : \$ 320 K
 Call: (297) 630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com
House For sale
 In Savaneta
 3 BR 3 Bath
 5 min walk to Ocean
 Price : \$180 K
 Call : (297)630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Costa Linda Beach Resort
 2 Br wk #15 room # 1012
 Ground floor right on the beach
 Price : \$ 13 K
 Call : (297)630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com
 _____213996
Property Land in Savaneta
 2350 m2 land with a
 2 BR , 1 Bath house on it
 5 min walk from Ocean
 Price :(297)630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com
 _____213992

Casa del Mar 2BR/2B
 Week 7&8/1408 (18k/Wk.);
 Week 8/1113; 8/1409 (17k/Wk.);
 Week 9/1218 (15k);
 Week 10/1207 (15k);
 Week 11/1419 (13k);
 Week 13/1509 (13k);
 Week 14/1308 (13k);
 Week 15/1217 (10k); and,
 Weeks 2-6 also available!
 CDMOwner@gmail.com
 U.S. (860)992-3890
 _____213823

Time Share Resales + Realty
 Own or Rent a piece of the Rock
For up to 70 % Off stay @5 Star Resort
 * All inventory available
 Visit our website :
www.halleytimetravelaruba.com
 For more info call:(297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
 also visit(new):
www.halleyadventures.com

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

7		1						
	9				7			4
		4		8		7		
9	1				3		8	
	6		7				2	1
		7		5		3		
6			2				1	
						4		6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/15

©2021 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

ARUBA TODAY BONDIA

How to reach us!

Downtown



Editor
 Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
 Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
 Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
 Acc. #23951903
 RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director
 Xiomara Arends

Editors
 Liza Koolman (Management assistant)
 Richard Brooks
 Linda Reijnders

Sales
 Linda Reijnders
 (linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
 Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
 classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
 accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
 Juan Luis Pinto
 Pilar Flores

Columnists
 Anthony Croes
 Joris Zantvoort
 Thais Franken

Weststraat 22
 T: 582-7800
 E: news@arubatoday.com
 W: www.arubatoday.com
 @arubatoday



DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad
 Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
 Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas
 Imsan 24 hours
 Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
 Dakota Tel. 588 7364
San Nicolas:
 Seroe Preto Tel. 584 4833

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
 Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
 Urgent Care 586 0448
 Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
 +297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
 Tel. 582 5051
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Tel. 736 2952
 Narcotics Anonymous
 Tel. 583 8989
 Fundacion Contra Violencia
 Relacional Tel. 583 5400
 Centre for Diabetes
 Tel. 524 8888
 Child Abuse Prevention
 Tel. 582 4433
 Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



facebook.com/arubatoday/

On 'Promising Young Woman,' consent, and a harrowing ending

By **JOCELYN NOVECK**

AP National Writer

"Man. That ending!" That's likely what you'd hear everyone saying on the way out of the multiplex — if we were all still going to the multiplex — after "Promising Young Woman." In an audacious and provocative film (nominated for five Oscars), there's no part more audacious and provocative than the final act, in which former medical student Cassie (Carey Mulligan) exacts her very unique form of revenge. But though some call the film a black comedy, there's nothing funny about the end — it's brutal, and feels very real. Writer-director Emerald Fennell says she wasn't interested in a comic-book fantasy ending. Nobody pulls out an AK-47 and blows the bad guys away. In fact, the bad guys tend to masquerade as good guys. Fennell, nominated for both director and original screenplay in what is, stunningly, her feature debut, says her first draft of the ending was "a lot starker and a lot bleaker" than the one we see now. (That might shock some who think it's already pretty darned bleak.) Things were tense on set the days they shot a particularly difficult scene, with a stunt team doing the blocking but Mulligan, a best actress nominee for her fierce and nimble performance, performing it herself. It was grueling even



Writer/director Emerald Fennell, left, and actress Carey Mulligan pose for a portrait to promote their film "Promising Young Woman" during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah on Jan. 25, 2020.

before the realism went too far and Mulligan was briefly in actual physical danger. After the close call, she says, she went outside and suddenly, uncharacteristically burst out weeping. Fennell and Mulligan sat down recently over Zoom to discuss their film, the gratifying recognition they've gotten, and that harrowing ending (no specific spoilers here, but if you haven't already seen the film, beware nonetheless.) They also expressed hope the movie could help raise awareness among young people about sexu-

al consent. (In fact, Focus Features and RAINN, the anti-sexual violence group, announced this week they were partnering with Campus Circle to host free virtual screenings of "Promising Young Woman" for college students.) (Interview has been edited for brevity and clarity) **AP:** Emerald, this is your debut feature. Did you ever imagine getting such recognition? **FENNELL:** I think you'd have to be a megalomaniacal monster to ever think you'd be nominated for Academy Awards. No ... the thing

that was so important to us was just physically getting it finished because we had such a short shoot time (23 days). And I was enormously pregnant. So this has just been extraordinary. **AP:** Carey, a decade ago you were nominated for an Oscar for "An Education." How have things changed for you since? **MULLIGAN:** It changed my career when it happened. But ... the experience was quite overwhelming, and I found it stressful and felt like an imposter. This time around, I'm determined to really have a nice time be-

cause it's just incredible. **AP:** So, about that ending: Emerald, did you have different versions in mind when you started? **FENNELL:** In theory, there were lots of versions of the ending that could have happened. The first thing I handed in was a lot starker, I would say, and a lot bleaker. There was certainly never an ending that was written down that would have been her cutting everyone's (privates) off and ... walking away with a cigarette in slow motion. The ending that we WANT, is not possible. That's the whole point of the film, really. **AP:** Carey, what was it like on set during the toughest part? **MULLIGAN:** We watched a stunt team do it first ... we all stood around wincing. And we did have a mishap where it went wrong, briefly. I thought, 'Well, I can probably get out of this.' Then I realized that I was not able to. We had a sort of special symbol or something. I did a thumbs-down or whatever ... and then I went outside and just completely lost it and just couldn't stop crying. **FENNELL:** We had to be extra, extra diligent and cautious, because if something did go wrong, we wouldn't know until it really was too late. So it was one of those things that on the face of it, maybe didn't seem like an incredibly dangerous stunt. But it was. □

Associated Press

Serena Williams signs programming deal with Amazon Studios

By **The Associated Press**
Serena Williams has signed

7	5	1	4	6	9	2	3	8
8	9	6	3	2	7	1	5	4
3	2	4	1	8	5	7	6	9
9	1	2	5	4	3	6	8	7
5	7	8	6	1	2	9	4	3
4	6	3	7	9	8	5	2	1
1	4	7	8	5	6	3	9	2
6	3	9	2	7	4	8	1	5
2	8	5	9	3	1	4	7	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/15

a deal with Amazon Studios under which she will create scripted and non-scripted programming, including a docuseries that follows her exploits on and off the court, the tennis star said Tuesday. Williams made the announcement during a conversation with actor Michael B. Jordan that was part of a charitable event organized by Vanity Fair magazine. The 39-year-old Williams,

who ranks second all-time with 23 Grand Slam singles titles, said she hopes to "bring really special stories to film, and to people's homes." Williams, who has limited her schedule in recent years because of injuries and the birth of her daughter, has not played since she lost in the Australian Open semifinals in February to Naomi Osaka, who went on to win the title. □



In this Aug. 24, 2020, file photo, Serena Williams serves to Arantxa Rus, of the Netherlands, during the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament in New York.

Associated Press

Browns sign Jadeveon Clowney to pair with Garrett on D-line

By **TOM WITHERS**
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jadeveon Clowney will chase quarterbacks and a Super Bowl title with the Browns. The dynamic free agent defensive end signed a one-year, \$10 million contract with Cleveland on Wednesday, joining All-Pro end Myles Garrett on the defensive line and a team looking to go deeper in the playoffs this season.

Clowney, the No. 1 overall pick in 2014, hasn't always played up to his reputation. He also has dealt with numerous injuries, but Browns general manager Andrew Berry has been intrigued by him for two years and Clowney visited the team Wednesday for the second time in recent weeks.

"We love his relentless style of play," Berry said. "He's one of the more disruptive players in the game and we think he's going to add an element of ruggedness along our defensive line and will pair nicely with many of the guys we have on the roster already."

"The other thing we love about Jadeveon is his versatility, his ability to play all across the front and impact the game regardless of his alignment."

The Browns have spent this offseason upgrading their defense, making Clowney, a three-time Pro Bowler, their signature move. His addition may have an impact on what they do in the upcoming draft; Cleveland's biggest need had been an edge rusher to complement Garrett.

"We're excited to add Jadeveon to our defensive line," Browns coach Kevin Stefanski said. "He's a disruptive force that will help us against the run and the pass. We've been able to make some nice additions to our defense throughout free agency and we are looking forward to getting to work, so we can improve our team."

The Browns, who made it to the second round of the postseason in 2020, will be Clowney's fourth team in four years.

After he was drafted first



Tennessee Titans linebacker Jadeveon Clowney (99) stands on the sideline in the second half of an NFL football game against the Indianapolis Colts in Nashville, in this Thursday, Nov. 12, 2020, file photo.

Associated Press

by Houston seven years ago out of South Carolina, Clowney spent five seasons with the Texans before one with Seattle and last year in Tennessee. He turned down a multiyear offer from Cleveland as a free agent last summer to join the Titans but didn't say no to the Browns a second time.

Last season, Clowney played in just eight games — and didn't record a sack — for the Titans before undergoing knee surgery. The Browns made sure he was medically sound before adding him to the roster.

The Browns will put Clowney on the opposite side of their defensive line from Garrett, giving Cleveland two disruptive ends capable of making big plays. □

Everyday triple points Totally sanitized table and chips.

ORCHID CASINO

Located in the Riu Antillas (formerly the Westin)
welcomes you to **RESERVE YOUR OWN PRIVATE TABLE**
for you and your party.



RESERVE your Private Table

Call 525 7777 ext.209
to make a reservation.



MLB will have minor league experiment with moving back mound

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball wants to see if moving back the pitcher's mound will increase offense.

MLB will experiment with a 12-inch greater distance between the mound and home plate during a portion of the Atlantic League season in an effort to decrease strikeouts and increase offense.

The pitching rubber will be moved back to 61 feet, 6 inches starting Aug. 3 during the second half of the independent minor league's season.

"It's a direct response to the escalating strikeout rate, where you're giving the hitter approximately one one-hundredth of a second of additional time to decide whether to swing at a pitch, which has the effect just in terms of reaction time of reducing the effective velocity of a pitch by roughly 1.5 mph," said Morgan Sword, MLB's executive vice president of baseball operations. "The purpose of the test and hope is giving hitters even that tiny additional piece of time will allow them to make more contact and reduce the strikeout rate." In 2019, the last full season, strikeouts set a record for the 12th consecutive year at 42,823, up 33% from



Boston Red Sox's Jackie Bradley Jr., hits a two-run home run off Houston Astros pitcher Josh James during the sixth inning in Game 4 of a baseball American League Championship Series in Houston, in this Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018, file photo.

32,189 in 2007. Strikeouts exceeded hits the last three seasons after never occurring before in major league history.

MLB calculated the average fastball velocity last year at 93.3 mph and estimated the increased distance would decrease the equivalent to 91.6 mph. The mound has been at its current distance since 1893, when the National League moved the rubber back 5 feet. Strikeouts declined from 8.5% in 1892 to 5.2% in 1893 and the batting average increased from .245 in 1892 to .280.

Chicago Cubs president of baseball operations Jed Hoyer compared these changes to the lowering of the pitcher's mound from 15 inches to 10 for the 1969 season.

"We've got to do something to get more offense in the game, whether you want to talk about the mound being moved back a foot, whether you want to talk about different ways of getting rid of the shift, whether you want to talk about substances on the ball," Hoyer said. "We need to make adjustments. The DH originally came of these

adjustments. The mound being lowered came from these adjustments. And I personally am of the mind of — obviously, I love baseball, but I don't believe the rules are written on stone tablets."

Many baseball purists oppose changing distances on the field. Commissioner Rob Manfred has been open to considering innovations to a tradition-bound sport.

"That seems pretty drastic, but again I think those are things that, you know, sometimes the craziest of ideas end up having

some traction," New York Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "I think that it's important that you try these things out when you're trying to consider different things in a league where you can kind of really take some information and see how it works out."

Two years ago, MLB announced that Atlantic League mounds would be moved back 24 inches to 62 feet, 6 inches, for the second half of that season but then abandoned the experiment before it began.

In addition, the MLB partner league will have an experimental "double-hook DH" rule in which a team would lose its designated hitter when its starting pitcher leaves the game. That will be in effect the entire season, which starts May 27, and the goal is to encourage managers to leave their starting pitchers in games longer.

The Atlantic League will continue use of the automated ball-strike computer umpire system that it started with in 2019. The ABS will be used in some Low-A Southeast League games this season.

In a change, the strike zone in the Atlantic League this year will be two-dimensional, measuring at the front of home plate, rather than three-dimensional. □

Associated Press

Claressa Shields to make MMA debut with PFL on June 10



Boxers Claressa Shields speaks during a news conference ahead of a women's super welterweight title fight against Eve Dicaire in Flint, Mich., in this Wednesday, March 3, 2021, file photo.

Associated Press

By **GREG BEACHAM**
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Two-time Olympic boxing gold

medalist Claressa Shields has a date and an opponent for her mixed martial arts debut with the Professional Fighters League.

Shields will fight Brittney Elkin on June 10, the promotion told The Associated Press on Wednesday. The bout in Atlantic City, New Jersey, will be the beginning of Shields' daunting quest to add MMA titles to her boxing success, which includes professional world titles in three weight classes. Shields announced her decision to take up MMA late last year, telling the AP she was determined to claim championship belts

in both combat sports. She has been training in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at Jackson Wink MMA Academy, the famed gym where former UFC champions Jon Jones and Holly Holm hone their craft.

"I am very excited to cement my legacy as the 'Greatest Woman of All Time,'" Shields said. "I cannot wait to step into the PFL cage for the first time on June 10 and show the world that I never back down from a challenge. I have shown I am the best boxer in the world, and eventually I intend to do the same thing as a mixed

marial artist." After winning Olympic gold in London and Rio de Janeiro, Shields is 11-0 as a pro boxer. She doesn't intend to give up her boxing career while pursuing MMA glory, and she unified the four major light middleweight titles last March with a unanimous decision over Marie-Eve Dicaire.

Elkin is 3-6 in an MMA career that has included bouts in Bellator and the PFL. She was arm-barred by two-time Olympic judo gold medalist champion Kayla Harrison in the first round of Harrison's MMA debut in 2018. □